

**In the Claims:**

1-11. (Cancelled)

[[11]]12. (Currently Amended) A protein suitable for inhibiting apoptosis, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence of ~~fig. 1~~ SEQ ID NO:2 or an amino acid sequence differing therefrom by one or several amino acids, the DNA of the latter amino acid sequence hybridizing with the DNA of ~~figure 1~~ SEQ ID NO:1 under normal conditions.

[[12]]13. (Currently Amended) The protein according to claim [[1]]12, comprising the amino acid sequence of ~~fig. 2~~ SEQ ID NO:5.

[[13]]14. (Currently Amended) DNA coding for the protein according to claim [[1]]12, wherein the DNA comprises:

- (a) the DNA of ~~fig. 1~~ SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA differing therefrom by one or several base pairs,
- (b) a DNA hybridizing with the DNA from (a), or
- (c) a DNA related to the DNA from (a) or (b) via the degenerated genetic code.

[[14]]15. (Currently Amended) DNA according to claim [[3]]14, comprising the base sequence of ~~figure 2~~ SEQ ID NO:4.

[[15]]16. Expression plasmid comprising the DNA according to claim ~~3 or 4~~ 14 or 15.

[[16]]17. (Currently Amended) Transformant containing the expression plasmid according to claim [[5]]16.

[[17]]18. (Currently Amended) A method of producing the protein according to claim ~~1 or 2~~ 12 or 13, comprising the culturing of the transformant according to claim [[6]]17 under suitable conditions.

[[18]]19. (Currently Amended) Antibodies directed against the protein according to claim ~~1 or 2~~ 12 or 13.

[[19]]20. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the protein according to claim 1 or 2 as a reagent~~ A method for inhibiting apoptosis comprising:

- a. producing a protein comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- b. administering the protein to an individual.

[[20]]21. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the DNA according to claim 3 or 4 as a reagent~~ A method for diagnosis and/or inhibition of diagnosing or inhibiting apoptosis comprising:

- a. producing a nucleic acid capable of hybridizing with the DNA of SEQ ID NO:1;  
and
- b. determining the expression of a DNA of SEQ ID NO:1 with the nucleic acid of  
(a).

[[21]]22. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to claim 9 or 10~~ The method of Claim 20 or 21, wherein apoptosis inhibition is effected in the case of AIDS or neurodegenerative diseases.